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Be Still.

"Let not your heart be troubled,
Your blessings oft are doubled
By disguise;
A mansion is awaiting,
Which faith is antedating,
In the skies.

A Savior comes to carry
Your load, and with you tarry,
If you will;
Then do not fret or worry,
Or try God's plans to hurry—
Just be still.

E. L. CLOSE.

LAWRENCE, KANS.

Dec. 29.—Persuant to the call made through the EVANGELIST some time since, a few brethren met to consider the Mission question, especially as it partains to our Western interests.

On motion, Joseph Michaels was chosen Moderator of the meeting, and A. J. Hixson, Secretary. Then the consideration of a plan was proceeded with and finally adopted in substance as follows:

1. The Missionary Board shall consist of a missionary and treasurer.

2. The duty of the missionary shall be, to answer all calls made to him and fill them as effectually as lies in his power.

3. The missionary shall make collections on his work from time to time, and announce publicly the amt. of said collection, and charge the same to his account.

4. The missionary shall make monthly reports of his work through the EVANGELIST and as much oftener as practicable.

5. The missionary shall receive one dollar and a half pr. day and his traveling expenses.

6. Each organized church calling on the chosen missionary for church work shall pay all the the expenses of said meeting.

7. The treasurer shall hold all funds and pay them out on the demand of the missionary.

8. The treasurer shall make monthly reports of the state of the treasury, through BRETHREN'S EVANGELIST.

9. We request that each church meet at once in business council and take steps to raise at least one dollar pr. member: but we do not wish this so construed as to prevent greater contributions.

10. Each church shall appoint a solicitor whose duty shall be to call upon each member and receive the contribution, report said amount to the church in which collected and forward it to State Treasurer.

11. It was unanimously agreed that Fred C. Schafer, of Mulvane, Kans., be continued as State Treasurer until his successor is elected.

12. Bro. W. J. H. Bauman was chosen by the unanimous voice of all present to serve as missionary for the state of Kans., until his successor shall be elected.

13. On motion, it was decided to adjourn to meet in state convention Aug. 19, 1886, at the city of Lawrence, at 10 o'clock A. M.

BURKETTSVILLE, OHIO.

Dec. 30th.—I have been reading a great many plans for extending our church work that have been sent to the EVANGELIST, and thinking it may not be amiss I wish to suggest a plan now, as our Church Government is Congregational.

I would suggest our territor be divided into sections of so many counties each, and let each congregation in those sections appoint their steward and let each member give as the Lord prospers them to this steward and let these meet every three months and bring their collections together, and let some man that is full of the Holy Ghost as Philip was be chosen as an evangelist and let this money be given to his support.

He should preach for all these congregations in his District and make his appointments so he will get around every month, and hold protracted meetings at such points as it is thought he can accomplish the most good, and in the time that is between his appointments at each place. Some brother can preach for his home congregation.

I think this is a good plan, as no brother or sister I think in the brotherhood will fail to give something for the support of the Gospel, and if each one does a little by the time it is brought together it will make quite a sum.

NATHAN R. GILBERT.

DAYTON, OHIO.

The Dayton church sailed over the sea of 1885 most gallantly. Eight precious souls were received and taken on board during the voyage. Two worthless church doors captured by a trio of hungry sharks, was the only loss sustained.

The sea of 1886 looks clear as crystal, the water sparkles as the noble old ship sails over its surface so gloriously. On its sails are inscribed these words, Peace on earth; good will to men.

King Jesus is our captain. He commandeth the waves and they obey him. "Peace be still."

The past had its sorrows, the present has its joys; henceforth, by the grace of God, this one thing we do forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, "we press forward to the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

SAMUEL KIEHL.

PONY CREEK, KANS.

Jan. 2nd.—The brethren of the congregrtion concluded that the best way to spend the ushering in of the New Year would be to meet together at our house of worship as early as eleven o'clock. A cordial invitation having been given to every body to come and bring their children and baskets and have a good social time.

Our brethren and sisters were nearly all present, and certainly we had an enjoyable time. Bro. Bauman preached one of his telling sermons from the words "Increase your Faith," urging upon us as a church, the living of a higher life during the year that we were just beginning than what we had during the past.

Truly, if we have lived as we should during the past year, it will only help us to live better during the past year.

We were made to think of the joys and sorrows of the past year. I took a stroll through our grave-yard and stood by the grave of my wife, and while standing there weeping over my loss, I was made to say that the year just passed brought no joy to my home. I asked myself the question, why she should be called home and I permitted to remain. Then the thought came to me, perhaps she was better prepared to go. By death our number has lost but one. God only knows who shall be called away during the present year.

After services, a repast was spread upon the tables and all were invited to partake.

After dinner we all enjoyed a social chat. Then we were called to order and Bro. Berkley took up subscriptions for the EVANGELIST, after which money was raised to pay debts of past year. Truly the day was profitably spent and may we that will be spared during the year, meet again at the commencement of next year as we met yesterday.

Bro. Bauman is holding a meeting near by and then takes the field. May God bless his labors.

J. H. BURNWORTH.

ALMENA, MICH.

Dec. 29.—I will send you a report of our Sabbath School here. Met to reorganize May the first. Brethren A. DeHaven was chosen superintendent, and J. Shank, assistant. No. of scholars enrolled, 32, mostly little ones. Number of verses learned, 1,543. Have a very good school for a small one. Closed for the season the last of Nov.

We have been having a few meetings by our much beloved Bro. C. A. Price, of Barry Co., assisted by Bro. J. Shank, of Almena; also Bro. Roberts from the Baptist church. No immediate results, but hope the seed sown may bring forth fruit. Expect Bro. Walter Clark of Cass Co., to be with us to hold a few meetings begining next Saturday. Brethren let us pray that the church be built up and sinners converted to God.

HATTIE DEHAVEN.

HOMER, OHIO.

On the last evening of the year that is past we went to the meeting-house, it being the hour for prayer. When we arrived a number of brethren and sisters were already there notwithstanding the muddy roads. It fell to the lot of our esteemed Bro. John Hart, to lead the meeting, and he was in his place with his book open selecting a suitable hymn with which to commence the services. When the hour arrived he arose and announced that beautiful hymn, "Must Jesus bear the cross alone." The hymn being sung we all knelt in prayer, and Bro. John addressed the Throne of Grace, thanking God for what He had done for him and others during the past year and fervently implored God to do even more for us in the new year, and give grace that we may each one turn a new leaf in our Christian pilgrimage for the better.

The leader's prayer concluded, we sang another hymn when we knelt again and the pastor offered prayer, followed by seasons of singing and prayer; two or three praying between the songs—until *all* had offered a public prayer—twenty two in number, when we all repeated the Lord's prayer in concert.

Sang the hymn, "We shall meet beyond the river," and the prayer meeting was over.

All felt as did Peter of old, "It was good to be there." Earthly enjoyments are forgotten, but the prayer meeting at Homer at the close of the year will long be remembered.

We are waiting for better roads to begin our protracted meeting. All is peace and harmony, and we are extremly happy. Health good in general. Sister Steward is sick, but is slightly convalescent. Pray for us.

H. S. JACOBS.

EMPORIA, KANS.

Dec. 30th.—H. R. HOLSINGER.—*Dear Brother in Christ.* In EVANGELIST No. 51., you enquire "where is Dr. P. R. Wrightsman: has he gone back to the flesh pots?" No, he has not gone back to the flesh pots; did not join the church thirty years ago, with any intention to every turn back. I am still in the same faith, as when I first joined the church, and expect to live and die in that same apostolic doctrin.

When I joined the church I was told there was no creed, nor, discipline, the gosple was the only rule of faith and action in the church, and on this foundation I have stood, and shall continue to stand, God being my helper. All that live goodly in Christ Jesus, are my brethren and sisters. I am here in Emporia, Kans., preaching for the Master, and trying to save souls. There has not been any division in this congregation; the difference here has not been agitated, and we work together in harmony with the gospel. I have been intending for some time, to write an article for the paper, but have been so very busy that I have neglected it. I have several subjects under contemplation for the press ere long.

I hope, too, soon be able to do something for the college debt. I promised some aid to this college, when it was first started, and I intend it shall be forth coming.

Now I have this proposition to offer, to be paid twelve months hence. I will be one, of forty, persons who will give one hundred dollars to Ashland College to lift the debt. It certainly seems that forty persons can be found who are enough interested in the educations of our children, to donate the above sum to clear so good a College, of its indebtedness. And this forty, to place themselves on record at the EVANGELIST office during the month of January, 1886.

Come brethren, and friends, to the rescue. Yours fraternally.

P. R. WRIGHTSMAN.

No General Convention.

And now, after reading "Church Discipline," in No. 51 and contemplating the rough voyage of life that we have been subjected to in the last few years in being steered by creeds, councils and decisions, I am aroused to give hearty assent to the article refered to above.

The record of the government of the Dunkard church is completed and may be read by any one when we simply refer to the Brethren's almanacs and the Book of Minutes. Previous to the Annual Meeting era the history of our Brethren is meager, compared with the later record, and is not our fall so simply and plainly described that it may be considered a piece of folly to plunge ourselves into an error knowingly? Certainly such an error committed the second time with former and personal experience may be counted the worst, which I came very near committing.

Creeds and councils and ecclesiastical decisions for unity in church fellowship have not only spent themselves in futile efforts to attain to that end and failed, but their records of times past fills worlds with sorrow, woe and blood-shedding.

The greatest and best rule of life is to pursue the plan that succeeds until it fails, and then to immediately discard it, and the plan that fails in the onset to accomplish the end intended is considered a failure. But how does it come with all the testimony of the vast amount of corruption that has attended creeds and councils of men and have always failed in the end intended, that we are not now ready to consider them a failure?

Instead of us looking to councils to guide us into the channels of righteousness let us hearken and give diligence to the decisions of the Lord and the Apostles; vis. that every one must give an account of his stewardship, that every one must bear his own burden, and that we do not make this liberty into which we have been called an occasion to the flesh.

No doubt the scriptures demand care to be exercised over one another in church fellowship, but there is a vast difference in doing this duty by rules and laws made for the laity in ecclesiastical councils or in love that is inspired by the study of the unfathonable treasures of the Holy Scriptures; making them our only infallible rule of faith and practice. They are a safe guide and will not lead into any thing dangerous, as general conventions are liable to do.

JOHN CULP.

Warrensburg, Mo.